# SHARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

# **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

# 2010-2011

Tim Watkins, Choir Director Fine Arts Department Chair

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# **Introduction**

Welcome to another great year at Sharyland High School Choir! We are excited to get the year started with a fantastic group of students. Our choir department has so much to offer all who are a part of it. Music is a vital part of everyone's life, and there is much evidence to support that participating in music stimulates the brain and increases a person's intelligence.

Our choir department offers the following benefits (as well as many more!) to its members:

- Performances of a Lifetime
- Lifelong Friendships
- Competitions
- A Place to "Belong"
- Annual Trips

We hope your experience this year will prove to be fun, educational, and stimulating!

# **Program Ensembles**

Beginner Choir: The beginning choir made up of mostly freshmen and sophomores.

<u>Contest Choir:</u> The advanced treble choir made up of mostly sophomore to senior women. Director's approval needed in order to participate in this group.

<u>Advanced Choir:</u> The advanced concert choir made up of mostly junior and senior women and men. Director's approval needed in order to participate in this group.

### **Officers**

#### Choir President: Carrie Hill

The responsibilities of this office consist of helping to oversee the outside activities of the choir, and assisting Mr. Watkins in day to day operations. The president must be someone who sets a good example for the choir students, is comfortable with people, will help to take up the responsibilities of those officers who are absent at an activity, and can delegate the responsibilities assigned to them. Specifically, the president will be responsible for attending student council meetings, coordinating officer meetings, various service projects, and the end-of-year banquet.

#### Vice President: Julian Gutierrez

The vice president will be an extension of the president and will preside in the office of the president in his/her absence. In the same way the president must portray certain qualities, the vice president must be someone who sets a good example for the choir students, is comfortable with people, and will help to take up the responsibilities of those officers who are absent at an activity.

#### Secretary: Noralee Olivarez

The secretary is responsible for taking care of the daily and extra rehearsal attendance and paperwork (ie. parent permission forms).

#### Treasurer: Eli Sandoval

The treasurer is responsible for assisting the directors in handling money and making sure that all money is tracked.

#### Reporter-Historians: Raquel Toledo

The reporter/historian is responsible for taking pictures at all events, coordinating the officer video at the beginning of the year, communicating with the school newspaper and the yearbook about choir events, communicating with the website manager, and compiling a scrapbook/slideshow at the end of the year.

#### Parliamentarian: Andrea Navarro

The parliamentarian is responsible for order in choir meetings. The parliamentarian will work together with the secretary during elections to determine vote count.

#### Librarians:

The librarians are responsible for processing and filing new music, making sure each student has a copy of each piece of music, and keeping the library in proper order.

#### Chaplain: Ayelén Cisneros

The chaplain must be a student of high moral conduct, set a good example for the students in the choir program and be in charge of the mindset of the program throughout the year.

#### Audio-Visual Managers:

The AV managers are responsible for assisting the directors in setting up and maintaining the sound equipment in the main rehearsal hall, as well as the practice rooms and sound room. They are also responsible for keeping the sound room organized and clean. They are responsible for burning CDs, updating existing recordings to current media type, and helping the directors in keeping the recordings logged, checked and organized.

#### Equipment Managers:

The equipment managers are responsible for assisting the directors in setting up and tearing down the electronic and stage equipment and keeping the sound room and ensemble room in proper order.

# **Dues**

There is no official charge to participate in choir, however, there are a few items that will cost a nominal fee:

- 1. Choir T-shirts approximately \$10
- 2. Spring Trip (if intending to go) approximately \$80
- 3. Lost or destroyed music the cost to replace the music.

# **Spring Trip Information**

Advanced Choir and Contest Choir will be attending the Music In the Parks Festival in San Antonio, TX on May 7, 2011. Anyone planning on participating in this trip must be passing all classes.

- 1. <u>Students and chaperones</u> must bring a down payment by the due date, and everyone must return a signed "Letter of Intent" even if you do not plan to go on the trip.
- 2. **Total cost** = approximately **\$80.** The first half of this money is due February 1, 2011. Student must supply any additional spending money. Fund-raising profits will go to pay for transportation.
- 3. We welcome chaperones to join us for the Spring Trip! We will have a 1 chaperone per 10 students ratio. Please indicate your interest to chaperone on your student's "Letter of Intent" and return the form with the indicated deposit. Being a chaperone is work, but there is a lot of fun involved.

<u>The payment schedule for the trip will be posted on the choir website,</u> <u>www.sharylandchoir.com.</u>

### **UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest**

The Solo/Ensemble Contest is a very prestigious contest that all students should take part in at some point in their Sharyland Choir experience. This spring semester event provides students an opportunity to select a song from the UIL Prescribed Music List, memorize it, and perform it for an appointed judge. The judge gives a rating to the student based on musicality, interpretation, knowledge of the song, memorization, vocal technique, etc. In addition, the judge gives a brief clinic/coaching session to each student. After learning the pitches and rhythms of the song, students should request assistance from their voice teacher and/or choir director in refining the music for the best possible performance.

This year's Solo & Ensemble Contest will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at PSJA Memorial High School.

### **TMEA Audition Process**

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) sponsors the All-Region Choir (Mixed and Treble) in November and the All-State Choir (Mixed, Treble, and Tenor-Bass choirs) in February. The entire process is based on individual effort and is an individual accomplishment. Singers must be personally motivated to make time and effort to learn the music, pitches, and rhythms as well as work on sight-reading skills. Our department offers many opportunities to learn the music, including the summer workshop (Rowe Choir Camp), after school rehearsals, class rehearsal time. It must be stressed that this is optional for all Sharyland Choir members, except Advanced Choir and Contest Choir. However, everyone is encouraged to participate in this worthwhile process.

The various levels and events in the process are:

- District and Region Auditions (Sat., Sept 25 @ Edinburg High School)
- District Treble Auditions (Sat., Oct 16 @ ???)
- Pre-Area Auditions (Sat., Nov 13 @ Rowe High School)
- Pre-Area Clinic #1 (Fri., Nov 19 @ McAllen High School)
- District Region Clinic and Concert (Sat., Nov 20 @ McAllen High School)
- Pre-Area Clinic #2 (Tues., Dec 28 @ McAllen Memorial High School)
  - Area Auditions (Sat., Jan 8, 2011 @ Rockport-Fulton High School)
  - All-State Choir Rehearsals and Performance/TMEA Convention (Feb., 9-12, 2011 @ San Antonio)

# **Lettering Requirements**

Students may only receive one school-purchased award jacket during their high school careers.

To receive an award jacket (letterman) for choir, a student must:

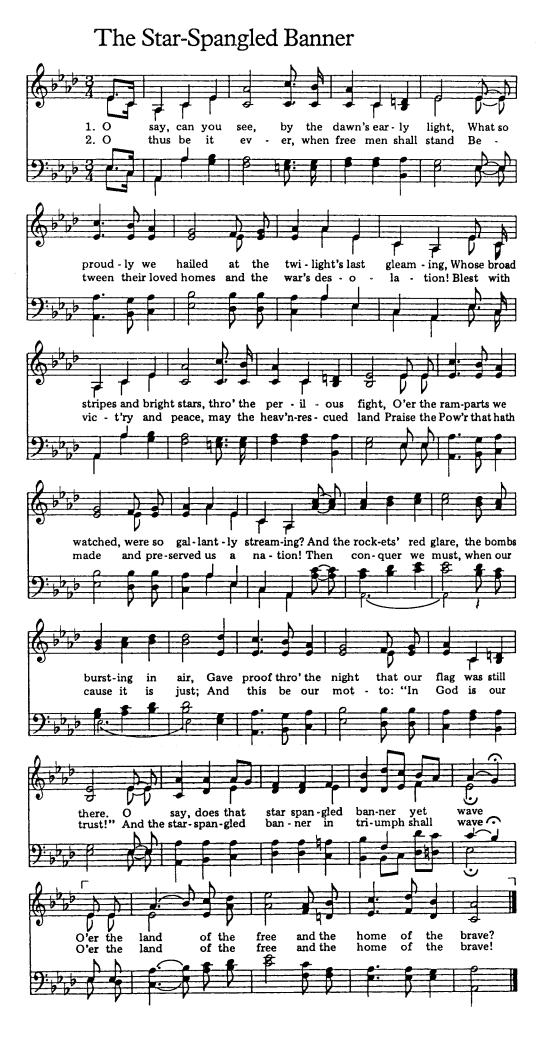
- A. Be active in choir all 4 years (receive at least 1 credit in choir per year). Or
- B. Audition for TMEA All-State and advance to Region Choir (minimum). Or
- C. Perform for UIL Solo and Ensemble contest with a class 1 solo or ensemble and advance to the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Austin.

If a student transfers to Sharyland from a different school and desires to receive an award jacket, the student must have been active in choir at the previous school and have received at least 1 credit in choir per year.

## **Choir Calendar**

September 25, 2010	District/Region Auditions	Edinburg HS
October 16, 2010	Treble Auditions	TBA
November 13, 2010	Pre-Area Auditions	Rowe HS
November 16, 2010	Winter Concert	HS Auditorium (if available)
	0 District/Region/Pre-Area Clinic & Co	
December 8-17, 2010	Musical	HS Auditorium
December 28, 2010	Pre-Area Clinic	
January 8, 2011	Area Auditions	Rockport-Fulton
January 29, 2011	Solo/Ensemble Contest	PSJA Memorial
April 6-7, 2011	Concert/Sight Reading Contest	UTPA
May 7, 2011	Festival	San Antonio
May 12, 2011	End-of-Year Concert	HS Auditorium
May ??, 2011	Baccalaureate	.Neuhaus Gym (Mission HS)
May 20, 2011	Choir Banquet	
May 28, 30, 2011	State Solo/Ensemble Contest	Austin (UT)
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The Star-Spangled Banner



# **Sharyland High School Alma Mater**



# Signed Choir Contract – Due Friday Sept. 3, 2010

Membership in the Sharyland Choir Department offers many valuable and personal learning experiences. Therefore, it requires that each student accept a large amount of responsibility.

I hereby agree to uphold my responsibility as a member of the Sharyland High School Choir Department by following the rules and guidelines of this organization.

- 1. I will arrive at rehearsal on time with my music, a pencil, and a good attitude. Gum chewing will NOT be allowed at any time in the choral music building while I am supposed to be rehearsing.
- 2. I will be responsible for keeping all dates, as given to me by the directors open and clear of other responsibilities, unless I have already discussed **in advance** an absence with my director and filled out and handed Mr. Watkins a "Pink Form."
- 3. I will attend all scheduled performances, rehearsals and sectionals unless excused in advance by my director. I understand that I will always be given at least one week advanced notice before any required activity, and that most rehearsals and performances will be announced far in advance. Therefore, it is understood that jobs and work are not acceptable excuses.
- 4. I understand that my grade in choir will be determined by the following:
  - a. Daily participation (attitude, cooperation, attentiveness, alertness, punctuality, and preparedness).
  - b. Attendance at sectionals, special rehearsals, and performances.
  - c. Behavior during rehearsals, concerts, special trips and activities.
  - d. Tests and music assignments.
- 5. I will assume responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility in order to participate in the extra-curricular activities. (Note: The scheduled concerts are "co-curricular" and do not require eligibility.)
- 6. I accept that on the first violation of any of the above guidelines notification to this effect may be sent to my parents, and that any subsequent violation may be grounds for my dismissal.

# **Student/Parent Handbook Contract**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_(print name) \_\_\_\_\_\_ (period), have received the Sharyland High School Choir Department *Handbook*, *Contract*, and *Calendar*, and I understand the responsibilities therein.

Please check one of the following before signing the contract concerning our Sharyland High School Choir web page: **www.sharylandchoir.com**:

\_\_\_\_\_Please feel free to use my/my student's photo on the Sharyland High School Choir web page. (I understand that <u>no last names</u> will be used to identify any student).

\_\_\_\_Please use my/my student's photo in large group photos only on the choir web page.

\_\_\_\_\_Please do not use any photo of me/my student on the choir web page.

Student's Signature	Date
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Parent's Signature	Date
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# **Parent Volunteer Form**

Parent's Name:	Phone Number:		
Parent's Email:			
Student's Name:	Choir Period:		
Please place a check ( $$ by the events you can help with!			
1. Chaperone: (Please check which ones			
District-Region Auditions	– Saturday, September 25 – All Day		
District Treble Auditions -	- Saturday, October 16 – All Day		
Pre-Area Auditions – Saturday, November 13 – All Day			
District-Region Choir Clin	iic/Concert – Saturday, November 20		
UIL Solo & Ensemble Con	ntest – Saturday, January 29, 2011 Time TBA		
	ng Contest – Tuesday, April 6-7, 2011		

- Time TBA Spring Trip – Saturday, May 7, 2011 – All Day Choir Banquet – Friday, May 20, 2011 – 7PM-12AM
- \_2. Prepare cookies, brownies, cakes, etc. (various times throughout the year)
- \_\_\_\_3. With some advance notice, I am willing to do whatever needs to be done!

# 2010-2011 SHARYLAND RATTLER CHOIR TRANSPORTATION AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

I give my choir member permission to travel on Sharyland ISD school buses and/or charter buses to and from concerts, contests and other choir activities during the 2010-2011 school year. I expect that all drivers will be certified personnel.

Should an emergency arise, I give permission for Mr. Watkins, Mrs. Snearley, Mr. Banda, Mrs. Chapa, Mr. Heath, Mr. T. Silva, Mrs. Sauceda, Ms. Bazan, Mr. J.R. Ramirez, Mrs. Swift and/or Mrs. Mendiola to authorize emergency room treatment until I can be contacted by emergency personnel.

STUDENT NAME:	S.S.#:	
GRADE: AGE:		
PARENTS(S) NAME:		
HOME PHONE:	CELL PHONE/S:	
WORK PHONE:		
RELATIVE TO CONTACT IN EMERGENCY:		
RELATIVE'S PHONE:		
REGULAR PHYSICIAN:		
PHYSICIAN'S PHONE:		
INSURANCE COMPANY:		
INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER:		
PLEASE LIST ANY ALLERGIES THAT YOUR CHILD HAS AND/OR ANY MEDICATIONS THAT ARE NEEDED:		

Parent Signature

Date